

SENATE BILL 1581
By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,
Chapter 6, Part 2, relative to reimbursement to
providers for initial workers' compensation
examination.

WHEREAS, employers refer patients to physicians for initial evaluations of a suspected
workers' compensation injury; and

WHEREAS, the physician customarily does not receive any reimbursement from the
employer or the employer's insurer for this initial evaluation if the injury is not deemed to be a
workers' compensation injury; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-226, is amended by designating
subdivision (a)(4) as (a)(4)(A) and adding the following as a new subdivision (a)(4)(B):

(a)

(4)

(B) Except for those situations delineated in § 50-6-110, payments
to providers for initial examinations and treatment that are authorized by
the carrier or a self-insured employer shall be paid by that carrier or self-
insured employer and shall not later be subject to reimbursement by the
provider, employee or another medical insurance program, even if the
injury or condition for which the employee was sent to the provider is later
determined non-compensable.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of labor and workforce development is authorized to
promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and

regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.